A PHYSICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CASE OF *ELIZABETH CANNING.*

WITH

An Enquiry into the Probability of her ſubſiſting in the Manner therein aſſerted, and her Ability for Escape after her ſuppoſ'd ill Uſage.

By JAMES SOLAS DODD, *Surgeon.*

Credideris nihil temerè. CATO.

LONDON:

Printed for J. BOUQUET, at the *White-Mart*, in *Pater-Noſter-Row.* 1753.

[Price One Shilling.]

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THE Diſappearance of a young Woman for a Length of Time, her Return at the Expiration of that Time, really in a diſeaſed State, and her declaring the Reaſons of her Abſence, and preſent Appearance, in a very ſtrange and almoſt incredible Manner; the Conviction of a Woman, the Conſequences of ſuch Information as was laid againſt

her, and ſome Reaſons appearing ſince that Condemnation, to induce the Criminal to be thought guiltleſs: Theſe Occurrences have cauſed not only much Talk, but even raiſed great Diſputes, Differences, and Factions.

We were inform'd from public News, that *Elizabeth Canning*, a Maid-Servant, returning from her Uncle's, about Ten at Night, was attacked in *Moorfields*, robbed, ſtruck, and on her falling into a Fit, carried a great Diſtance to an infamous Houſe, where, after having her Stays cut from her, and aſked to join in Ways which ſhe conceived to be bad, ſhe was thruſt into a Room, and confined there upwards of twenty-ſeven days and nights; during which time ſhe received no ſubſiſtence but the Quantity of about a Quartern Loaf, in dry Cruſts, and a Pitcher of Water, and a ſmall minc'd Pye; that, notwithſtanding, ſhe had Strength ſufficient remaining, not only to eſcape from thence, but to return that Diſtance in ſpite of the Effects ſuch Faſting can be ſuppoſed to have had on her. And that ſhe ſaid ſhe had been confined on the *Hertford* Road.

When ſhe was carried down by her Friends, ſhe pitched upon ſeveral Perſons, who were accordingly taken up, and had a Trial. And upon the Oath of this Girl, and the concurrent Teſtimony of a Servant in that Houſe, two Women were found guilty, one condemned to Death, and the other to ſuch Puniſhment as the Law appoints for Acceſſories.

During the Time the condemned Gipſey lay under the Sentence, ſome perſons ſay they have diſcovered her to be innocent, and the Fact ſworn againſt her to be falſe, and either the idle Tale of the Girl to excuſe herſelf to her Mother, or a Plot to gain Money. This they found upon the Recantation of the Evidence, the Depoſitions of a Multitude of Perſons, who declare the Gipſey was in another Place, at the Time the Robbery is ſaid to be committed, and alſo on the Improbability of the Facts.

The Friends of the Girl, on the other Hand, are, in order to eſtabliſh the Truth of the Fact, to give ſatisfactory Reaſons for *Vertue Hall*'s Recantation, to counterbalance the Depoſitions of the *Alibi* Evidence,

dence, and alſo to reconcile to Belief the ſeeming Improbabilities. This hath been in Part effected. They ſay Reaſons may be given for the Retraction of the Evidence, and that they have ſuch corroborating Proofs by Affidavits of the Girl's Aſſertion, that by their Number, and by the Weight of the Deponent's Credibility, will not only convince the unprejudic'd, but even the firmeſt Friends of the condemned Gipſey. And I can ſay with Authority, that as the Gentlemen concerned in the Proſecution on her Behalf, firſt took up her Defence through a firm Perſuaſion of her Innocence and Injuries, ſo they are determined never to deſert her Cauſe, untill the Affair is fully clear'd, which they doubt not to do to univerſal Satisfaction, but will effectually ſupport her Cauſe to the utmoſt of their Abilities, and be deterr'd by no Pains, Expence, or Party-favour whatſoever.

From theſe two different Opinions have ariſen twoPamphlets (for thoſe anonymous Things are not worth mentioning) the one wrote by Mr. *Fielding*, the other by Mr. *Hill*. It is not I own my preſent Taſk to comment on either, though, if I have Room towards the Cloſe of theſe Sheets, I may

may anſwer ſome Cavils (for I cannot call them Objections) of the latter.

Mr. *Fielding* hath, with great Reaſon, aſſerted, that theſe Facts do not amount to an Impoſſibility, but confeſſes they do to a very high Improbability. I believe with him, every one will own the Strangeneſs of the Occurrences, but when they, with all their concurrent Circumſtances, are well adverted to, they will not amount to the vaſt Improbability the other Writer ſuppoſes.

The Juſtice hath anſwered ſome of the common Objections, and hath left ſome to be anſwered by thoſe whom he ſuppoſes more capable of ſatisfying the World in thoſe Particulars, which are, *1ſt*. That *Elizabeth Canning* could ſurvive this Uſage, and notwithſtanding the Terrors of her Mind, be kept alive with ſuch Subſiſtence only. *2dly*. That ſhe ſhould ſo judiciouſly huſband her ſmall Pittance. And, *laſtly*, That ſhe ſhould ſtill have Strength to eſcape and walk home eleven Miles. Of theſe Particulars he leaves the Degree of Probability to be aſcertain'd by the Phyſicians; poſſible he thinks it to be, and contends for no more. Yes, Mr. *Fielding*,

it

it is possible, and likewise agreeable to Nature and her Operations, and therefore to Reason; which I doubt not to prove in the following Pages.

I had, at the first Sight of Mr. *Fielding*'s Case, an Intention of considering what he hath left to be done; but the Deference I pay to the Gentlemen of the College, and to my Seniors in that Company to which I have the Honour to belong, hitherto witheld me, and determined me to wait some Time, to see if any would oblige the World with their Sentiments; but finding none willing, I thought that necessary Part had better be endeavoured by one beneath them, than not at all. I have therefore undertaken this Task, *1st*. To prove the Probability of her being carried off in her Fits. *2dly*. To give some physical Reasons why she sunk not under the complicated Sufferings of Body, through want of Food, and Mind, through her Terrors. *3dly*. To assign a natural Cause for her Strength in her Escape. *4thly*. To enumerate and account for the Effects such Usage had upon her. And, *lastly*, To assure the World, that the Symptoms apparent upon her at her Return, could not be the

Effect

Effect of a Salivation, as it is ſcandalouſly reported, but only of her proſequent ill Uſage; and likewiſe produce parallel Caſes to theſe ſeveral Particulars. If theſe Things are proved probable, and agreeable to Reaſon, then one great Stumbling-block in the Way of Belief is taken away, and that of the Recantation and *Alibi* Evidence I leave to thoſe whom I doubt not are ſufficiently able to account for it.

I am very ſenſible of the Inconveniencies I muſt labour under in endeavouring this Defence, and muſt incur the Name of either *credulous, once deluded and ſince obſtinate, intereſted or malicious*; for ſuch are the Names beſtow'd on any who adhere to her Cauſe: But that hath no Terror to me. I am not ignorant, tho' I muſt own very much concerned, to find this Girl hath more female than male Opponets. I know not whether the Appellation of Virtue, joined to the Name of a poor Girl, an obſcure Servant, is not hateful in the Ears of many, who, perhaps, from the Examination of their own Hearts, think it hath no Exiſtence any where, and that it is a Word alone, and no Reality. I would not paſs that harſh Cenſure upon all the Females who

 ſneer

ſneer at *her Virtue*, though I am ſenſible many deſerve it. I will rather think it ariſes from want of due Conſideration on the Probability of a Fact; and I doubt not, ſo great is the Force of unadorned Truth, that ſome will even from theſe Pages acknowledge her Injuries to be real. I muſt confeſs it is not impoſſible that *Elizabeth Canning* may be an Impoſtor; (though I muſt own that it ſeems to me a greater Improbability than any can be urged againſt her) if ſhe is found ſo, yet in the Eyes of the truly Judicious, all her Friends and Advocates will be blameleſs, and no Imputation of Crime can be on them, except thoſe who are violent, and thoſe on either Side of any Queſtion deſerve no Credit.

I ſhall take care, though this is a phyſical Inquiry, to avoid all technical Terms as much as poſſible, and make what I ſay plain to every Reader.

The firſt Objection that comes under my Conſideration is, That it is improbable two Men could carry a Girl eleven Miles, (for it is really no more) and that ſhe could be the greateſt Part of that Time inſenſible.

As to the Objection of their meeting Paſſengers, or their Motives for ſo doing, they are foreign to my Purpoſe; but that two large Men, if willing, were able not only to drag, but carry ſuch a ſiz'd Perſon as *Elizabeth Canning*, muſt be allow'd; for, though ſhe is well ſet, ſhe is ſhort, barely five Feet high. It may be ſaid, ſuppoſing this Girl in a Fit, ſhe then being as dead, muſt weigh heavier; that I deny, as a vulgar Error. The Aſſiſtance a living Perſon gives, when lifted, is different from the unaſſiſting Weight; and let me ſay that ſhe was of the eaſier Carriage, had ſhe been even borne in Arms as quite reſiſtleſs; and let but any Perſon make the Experiment between a ſtruggling Reſiſtance, and that of a dead Corps of equal Magnitude, and they will join with me, in thinking it is the Aſſiſtance Life gives makes the ſeeming Difference, and that the Men had a leſs troubleſome Load than had ſhe had her Senſes.

The Word *Fit* I believe hath been miſtaken by ſeveral Perſons, who joining the Idea of Struggling, common in EPILEPSIES, enhance the Wonder. Here by the Way I ſhall obſerve, when ſhe was aſked upon her

her Trial, *If her Fits were attended with Struggling?* she answer'd, *She did not know that.* This is made a Matter of Triumph; and they say she must have heard from her Mother and Friends, if she had been used to struggle in her Fits: but I can answer that, by assuring them she understood that Question as relating to the Fits she was in, at the Time of her being carried off; and it is not to be thought she could answer for that. But to return, she had been troubled with Fits for four Years, first caused by the Fall of a Garret-Ceiling upon her Head. There may be observed two Reasons why she should fall into them at the Time of her being attacked. Her Fright, which might cause an irregular Influx of the animal Spirits, aided by the Blow; and besides, it was near upon the Time of the New Moon, which is known to have a remarkable Power over Epilepsies and Convulsions. They are wrong who suppose a Convulsion or Epileptick Fit must always be attended with Struggling, or that it was incredible she should continue so many Hours in it: I have before me an Instance of one Mrs. *Susan Floide*, a Patient of Sir *Charles Scarborough*, Dr. *Bathurst*, and Dr. *Collins*. She was seized with an universal

Convulsion,

Convulſion, that ſhe remained eleven Hours without any Senſe, her Body and Limbs inflexible, and after that Time ſhe returned to Life; but ſo dreadful was her Caſe, ſhe remained in her Senſes but one Hour, before ſhe was retaken with the ſame Fit, which returned every Day, of longer or ſhorter Duration, for near a Month before ſhe was cured *. Many more Inſtances may be produced of a long Duration in a Fit, but this one may ſuffice to aſſure the Public her falling into a Fit, and continuing in it, until the time ſhe ſays ſhe revived, is not improbable, and that her being in this unreſiſting State gave greater Conveniencies to the Men to carry her.

The next Labour is to give Reaſons why ſhe died not for want of Food, but was ſubſiſted by ſo ſmall a Quantity.

In order to account for this, it may be proper to give my Reader ſome Account of her State of Body, at the Time ſhe was carried off. She was a hearty Girl, ſanguine, and of a florid Countenance; ſhe had been accuſtomed throughout her Life, to a deficiency of liquid Aliment; having for many Years taken ſcarce half a Pint of

* Vid. COLLIN's Anat. Vol. II. Book III. Chap. 70.

of Liquid in Twenty-four Hours, and conſequently to a coſtive Habit of Body; and as if ſhe had been prediſpoſed for ſuch a Deprivation of Food, ſhe for five preceeding Months had had the common Female Benefit totally obſtructed. This happened by Reaſon of her ſleeping great Part of a Night, in a damp Stone Kitchen; which ſhe did, fearing the Watchman might not call her up early enough to waſh. All this premiſed it will, to any Gentleman acquainted with the animal Faculties, appear the more probable why ſhe ſhould be able to live upon ſo ſmall a Quantity of Food. Let me not be miſunderſtood, I would not infer that a Perſon might thrive upon ſuch a Pittance, or even retain the Fleſh they had, upon ſuch Dieting; but that Life might be preſerved thereby is not to be doubted, eſpecially when all Things are conſidered. The Quantity of her Water, if proportioned to the Time ſhe ſtayed there, was little leſs than her uſual Quantity of Liquid, which, if we reckon at half a Pint every twenty-four Hours, was but a little above a Gallon and a Half; and ſhe declares, and by the Size of the Pitcher it appears, it might hold about five Quarts: Then in a whole Month there is but four Half-Pints below her

her uſual Quantity, therefore the Want of that Article could not be to her ſo inſupportable, however it might to thoſe who are accuſtomed to drink a greater Quantity of Liquids. The Quantity of her Food was (allowing it to be about the Quantity of a Quartern Loaf) four Pounds and near a half in Twenty-ſeven Days, that is about three Ounces in Twenty-four Hours, a ſurprizing Thing when thought upon! Now as ſhe had no Stool, their could be no more Expence to be recruited, than what uſually ariſes from inſenſible Perſpiration, and to make a Calculation of what Waſte of Body ſhe could ſuffer, we muſt conſider the uſual Waſte of a moderately healthful Body. The learned *Sanctorius* hath obſerved the Night and Day to carry off in Stool and by Urine thirty Ounces, and by Perſpiration fifty Ounces. There ſhould ſome Allowance be made for the difference of Heat in his Climate, and ours, which will leſſen the Perſpiration five out of fifty. Now he ſays likewiſe, that Fear and Sorrow cloſe the Pores, and hinder the freedom of Perſpiration. Admit alſo that Inaction which the Girl was forced to bear, and I believe the Quantity of perſpirable Matter ariſing from

her

her while confined, muſt be fixed at about as many forty Ounces, as ſhe abided Days; then there was ſixty-ſeven Pounds eight Ounces to recruit, loſt by Perſpiration, for the Evacuation by Urine was very ſmall, and that by Stool totally ſtopped. Reckoning therefore the Quantity of Bread and Water to weigh fourteen Pounds and a Half, by ſubſtracting that from the ſixty-ſeven Pounds eight Ounces, expended, there will be a Deficiency of fifty-three Pounds. Now it muſt be allowed that the additional Quantity of Blood ariſing from this aforementioned Obſtruction, muſt be about forty-eight Ounces, or three Pounds; none of which could be ſuppoſed to turn to Excrement, therefore admitting a Want of fifty-three Pounds, this muſt ſupply three thereof, and leave the total Waſte to be fifty Pounds; but the Matter of Perſpiration being partly ſuperfluous Matter, we may, without any Injury to Truth, fix her Loſs of Subſtance at two Fifths, and ſay ſhe was waſted twenty Pounds. This, to be ſure, is a dreadful Quantity to loſe in leſs than one Month. But have we not ſeen almoſt twice as much Waſte in a Conſumption in the ſame Time; and have not Fevers, Fluxes, and Acute Diſeaſes, waſted Perſons more remarkably?

ably. It is true, she felt the Effects of this Waste in a most sensible Manner; her Body was emaciated, and a little longer Continuance of Starving, (as it may very justly be called) would have certainly been mortal; and a great Proof of the Girl's good Condition, is her speedy Recovery; not indeed so speedy, as to happen in two Days, as we have been told by Mr. *Hill*, for that she was then red and white like other Persons, I absolutely deny, for at this very Time the Lividness of her Skin is not totally gone off.

I am told by her, (and I have the greatest Reason to believe her, having in the Navy been Witness of similar Cases) that she had, after a little Time, no Spur to Eating, but Faintness and Desire of Preservation, all the Calls of Hunger being in a Manner gone off. Let the immediate Cause of Hunger be what it will, that Cause, after a few Days, is taken away; for, if it is caused by the Attrition of one Side of the Stomach to the other, a Continuance of that Attrition will blunt Sensation, and the exhausted Spirits will sooner demand Supply, than the depraved Stomach will intimate its Wants; or, if we believe otherwise,

therwiſe, that the chief Cauſe of Hunger is the Remainder of former Food fermented in the Stomach, yet there will, in Time, be a want of that Ferment, if Food is denied to the firſt Cravings.

An Author *, attributing the Cauſe of Hunger to this Ferment, accounts for the different Gradations, and the ſubſequent Loſs of Appetite, in this Manner: "The longer this Ferment remains in the Stomach, it is ſtill more and more fermented by the Spittle, which is continually ſwallowed down, and intermixed with it, and at length there is raiſed a ſomewhat ſour and grateful Vapour, which pleaſingly affects the upper Orifice of the Stomach, and ſo, natural Hunger ſeems to be produced.

If Food be withheld longer than uſual, then this Hunger is encreaſed even in healthy People, which is promoted and augmented by the Juice of the *Pancreas* †, and having a friendly *Ferment* in the ſmaller Bowels, from whence more Vapours ariſing to the Stomach, Hunger increaſes, and

* Dr. Johnson Enchirid. Lib. III. Chap. iii.
† The Sweet Bread.

and if Food be not properly taken, it may proceed to fainting Fits.

Hence we may gather, that if there be a vitious Ferment of bad Humours in the ſmaller Bowels, then vitious Vapours will ariſe up to the Stomach, and not only diminiſh Hunger, but more or leſs deprave Thirſt; therefore Food becomes no more deſirable as a Gratification, but as a Means of Life.

If then ſhe had no Incitement of Appetite, it is to be thought ſhe would not eat ſuch unſavory Morſels, but as her Strength decayed, to endeavour a Recruit. And for that petulant Objection of her juſt proportioning her Bread to the Time of her Duration, that is wholly a childiſh one; for the Fact is not ſo. She did not proportion it; ſhe had conſumed all on the *Friday* before the *Monday* ſhe eſcaped, ſo that ſhe had been totally without Food for three whole Days, had not that Pye been in her Pocket. And hence may be derived ſome Reaſon for her Eſcape; but more of that when we come to conſider that Article.

Here we find a mere enduring of Life by but three ounces of Bread and five of Water, upon an Average, each twenty-four Hours; we find a Reaſon for her want of Appetite; and alſo are in ſome meaſure enabled to aſcertain the Waſte of Fleſh, above the Poſſibility of Recruit; but yet not quite ſo great a Waſte as to deſtroy an hearty Girl, whatever it might have done a Woman leſs ſo.

I muſt own I look upon that Obſtruction as one chief Means of her Support, by affording her an additional Quantity of Blood and Spirits, however depraved they might be, and to this may be aſcribed that ſhe was not worſe than ſhe really was (if worſe on this ſide Death could be).

I think then the Probability of a Woman in her Circumſtances ſubſiſting with ſo ſmall a Quantity of Food is paſt diſpute, by ſhewing that, though it was almoſt deſtructive to her, and might be quite ſo to one weaker; and not in that high florid State, in which ſhe was at her firſt Attack; yet it was not contrary to Reaſon. I know HIPPOCRATES declares no one can live ſeven Days without Meat or Drink; but he does not mean with ſome

some small Portion, but absolutely without any: But here her Case had no Affinity with a seven Days total Abstinence; besides, there have been many Cases where Persons have lived with little, nay some with less. I saw myself a shipwreck'd Man, who saved from the Deep with seven others, had been beating in a Boat twenty-three Days, with only about fifty Pounds of Biscuit and a Cask of Water; the four last Days they had no Food at all, during which time six died, their Bodies being (as the others said) chang'd Black; the two surviving were taken up and saved. I had the Case of one who recover'd, the Truth of which many can testify. The living on a very little Drink is not improbable, and the less so, as she had been accustomed to the like. I know a Lady at this present Time, who for many Years tasted no other Liquid than her Tea. But that these Things may not seem strange, I'll give my Readers some authentic Accounts of Persons who existed Years without Food, some the Consequence of Diseases, some of obstinate Fasting, and some without any apparent Cause.

A young Maiden, named *Renée Chauvel* was about 14 Years of Age, lived with her Parents in the Village of *Thurandais*, in

in the Biſhoprick of *St. Malo*. On the twenty-fifth of *November*, 1696; ſhe fell ill of a bloody Flux, and in three Weeks was cured; but remained without Appetite, in a weak languiſhing Condition, and till the End of *April* following took no Nouriſhment but a little boil'd Milk Night and Morning: She then returned a little to her former Way of Life, and ſo continued till the Beginning of *November*, 1697, then ſhe fell into a melancholly Delirium, and towards the End of that Month deſiſted from eating and drinking, and ſo had continued when this Relation was made, for fourteen Months: She had voided nothing ſince ſhe had left off Food, and her Belly was all conſumed and ſeemed as if ſhrunk and drawn in to the Joints of her Loins. The Relation goes on thus: She hath only urined five or ſix Times; ſhe ſweats in the Head and Neck, and weeps often; ſhe cannot walk without being ſupported, and then only two or three Steps, but ſhe has crawled upon her Hands and Feet ſeveral Times; ſhe ſleeps indifferently well but hath not ſpoke ſince *Chriſtmas* 1696, notwithſtanding ſhe apprehends all you ſay, and gives ſufficient Signs of her Knowledge.

This

This Relation is given in the Present State of *Europe* for the Year 1693, and is attested for Truth by the Testimonies of her Father and Mother; *M. Oren*, Dr. of Physick, one of the College of Physicians, of *Rennes*; the Count of *Garais*; the Abbot of *Trégovet*; the Prior of *Corfeul* and his Curate; by the Gentleman to whom the Father of the Maid is Tenant, and by all the Inhabitants of the Village.

In the Year 1671 at *Minster-Lovel*, one *Rebecca Smith*, a Woman aged near Fifty, Servant to *Thomas White*; was afflicted with such an extreme Drought in her Throat, that she could get down nothing solid or liquid for the Space of Ten Weeks, at the End of which Time she drank a small Quantity of Water and some warm Broths, and continued without any other Aliment for a whole Year, when she began to take to her Food again. This is related by Dr. *Plot* in his *Natural History of Oxford*; and he adds. To clear it from being thought a Contrivance there was no Advantage made of the Accident, which might bring it under Doubt or Suspicion.

Franciscus

Franciscus Vieta was a Man of singular Learning, and so devoted to Contemplation, that he would often continue in his Study for three Days and Nights, without Meat, Drink, or Sleep, and when either forced or perswaded to quit his Study, and otherwise divert himself, he never complained of Want of Food, or eat more for his long Fasting, than he used to do at other Times when he kept to his constant Meals. This is related by *Thuanus* in his History of his own Times.

Schenkius, in his Observations, gives us the three following Relations. *Scheira*, a Virgin of *Berin*, in *Switzerland*, fasted for several Years successively. In the first Year of her Abstinence she kept very seldom, but in the succeeding Years she was constantly waking.

The Magistrates of *Berh*, committed her to the Care of *Paulus Dentulus*, an eminent Physician, who kept a strict Watch upon her, and never suffered her to be alone, to try whether she managed herself by any Kind of Artifice or Deceit, but finding none, and certifying so much,

she

ſhe was permitted to return to her Relations.

A young Girl, ſomewhat above nine Years of Age, named *Margaret*, born in a Village near *Spire* in *Germany*, began to live without Food, and although ſhe enjoyed all the Sports, Recreations, and Paſtimes, equally with any other Children of her Age in the Neighbourhood, yet ſhe was never known to eat any Victuals whatſoever, for the Space of three Years ſucceſſively. The Biſhop of *Spire* put her under the Care of the Pariſh Prieſt, with ſufficient Attendants, and Orders to watch her ſtrictly; but no Deceit being diſcovered, *Maximilian*, the King of the *Romans*, put her into the Cuſtody of his own Phyſician, *Gerhardus Bacoldianus*, aſſiſted by one of the Gentlemen of his Bed-chamber, who, after a nice and diligent Obſervation for thirteen Days, reported to his Majeſty that there was no room to believe her a Counterfeit, whereupon ſhe was returned to her Friends, with Gifts ſuitable to his Royal Dignity, and the Greatneſs of his Admiration.

Katharine Binder, Native of the *Upper Palatinate* in *Germany*, received no Nou-

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riſhment for nine Years. Beſide *Schenkius*, ſhe is alſo taken Notice of by *Horſtius*, that great Phyſician, who adds, that *John Caſſimir* commanded her to be watched by a Minſter of State, an Eccleſiaſtic, and two Licentiates in Phyſic, but they could make no Diſcovery of any Kind of Impoſition, and deem'd it to be truly wonderful.

I will add another well attested Account from a creditable Phyſician *.

The Daughter of a Smith, of the City of *Conſtance*, on the Borders of the Province of *Limoſin*, in *France*, named *Joan Balaam*, at eleven Years of Age fell into a violent Fever, attended with very dangerous Prognoſtics; inſomuch that it deprived her of the Faculty of Speech, Uſe of her Limbs, and threw her into a Phrenzy; which continuing near a Month, all Parts of her Body languiſh'd extreamly, and the Stomach and Paſſages thereto were ſo relaxed, that it deprived her of all kind of Nouriſhment; and though in about half a Year ſhe recover'd the Uſe of her Limbs and Motion, yet the Impoſſibility of ſwallowing continued,

* Francisc. Citesius,

 from

from whence grew a perfect Averſion to all Sorts of Food, whether liquid or ſolid, inſomuch that her lower Belly was ſhrunk up, when the other Parts of her Body were in a tolerable thriving Condition.

This Ceſſation from eating laſted almoſt three Years; and although her Buſineſs was a continual Motion, ſhe voided no Excrement, nor had any Evacuation by Sweat, Nose, Eyes, or Ears. The Skin which covered her lower Parts and quite up to her Neck, could derive no Warmth from the moſt violent Labour, except indeed under her Arms and the Parts about her Heart. After theſe three Years ſhe began to mend, and her Appetite was reſtored, tho' by very ſlow Degrees. She then fed on Meat, drank as the reſt of the Family, and recover'd an healthy Conſtitution of Body.

I ſhall mention but one more Inſtance which is alſo well atteſted by two eminent Writers *.

John Scot, an Inhabitant of *Scotland*, being caſt in a Suit of Law, in a greater Sum of Money than he was able to diſ-

* SPOTSWOOD's Hiſt. Chron. Scot.---CLARK's Mir.

charge, retired for his Security to the Abbey of *Holyrood-Houſe*, where, under the Senſe of his Affliction, he faſted near forty Days, which being told at Court, the King, to be certain of the Truth of the Report, to that End confined him to a cloſe Room in the Caſtle of *Edinburgh*, where none could have Admittance to him; a ſmall Quantity of Bread and Water was left with him, which in the Compaſs of thirty-two Days was nothing diminiſhed in Weight nor Meaſure. After he had got this Talent of Faſting, he travelled to *Rome* and gave the like Proof of his Abſtinence to Pope *Clement* the Seventh; and likewiſe at *Venice*. Afterwards he return'd to *England*, and aſcended the Pulpit in St. *Paul*'s Cathedral, and, after his Faſhion, he being a lewd and very illiterate Fellow, harangued againſt King *Henry* the Eighth's Divorce from Queen *Katherine*, and his Defection from the *Romiſh* Church; for which he was thrown into Goal, where alſo he faſted fifty Days.

Theſe Relations which I have ſelected are all of them well atteſted, and I have purpoſely omitted any which was deemed miraculous, as more liable to be miſled by

by legendary Fables where Priests had any Concern. I think it hath been shewn from Reason and Example, that the human Body, under particular Circumstances, can subsist with very little Food, nay, some we have seen without any. And it may be remarked, that in cold Countries, and when the Texture of the Skin is very close, a less Quantity of Food is absolutely necessary; though in cold Weather the Appetite is, I own, greater than in hot. I would not have it supposed that every Person can live in such Circumstances as this Girl did, it would be as unanswerable as to think the same Quantity of Food would satisfy different Bodies; but that some Persons have lived on much less Food than she, is one Argument why she may be thought capable of doing it when, as I say, under such particular Circumstances, but the Word *living* is almost improper, since she continually wasted and was barely alive; and if some would have quite perished upon such Food it must have been those of a laxer Habit of Body than the Person under Consideration.

I shall observe, that what little Food she had, was Bread, from three Ounces of which

which more Nourishment may be derived than from six Ounces of many other Foods; as to its being hard, that happened to be an Advantage to her, since however unsavory it might be to the taste, or disagreeable to get down, yet it was the less liable to go off by Stool, since stale Bread is of a binding Nature, because it soaks up the abounding Moisture of the Stomach, and gives a Consistency to the Juices as to render them the less liable to Evacuation. The Truth of this may be seen in this Girl's having no Stool; and likewise in Sailors, who are generally costive, which Costiveness ought not to be attributed so much to the Salt Provisions as to the Dryness of their Biscuit; and though it happens on a Change to fresh Provisions that they frequently fall into Loosenesses, it is only when that Meat contains more Juices than their Proportion of Bread can absorb; for the fresh Meat undeniably abounds with more Juices than salt, yet is not that salt Provision the alone Cause of Costiveness, only as it contains less Juices in Proportion to the dry Biscuit; for the Truth would be evident, if Men eat Salt Provisions with fresh new Bread, that is not so absorbent as Biscuit (which hath undergone a Kind of Calcination) then no Costiveness

neſs will follow, becauſe the Quantity of the Abſorber is not over-proportion'd to the Paucity of the Juices in the ſalt Meat. Or if Salt Proviſions were to be eaten without any Bread at all, ſo far from cauſing Coſtiveneſs, it would, by the ſtimulating Power of the Salt, cauſe a Superabundancy of excrementitious Diſcharge. But to return,

I have ſaid, that the Bread was more nutritive than twice its Quantity of many other Foods; and I repeat it; for in all Foods there are two Parts, nutritive and excrementitious; if in the Quantity of ten Poonds of one Kind, there are but five Ounces of Nouriſhment; and in ſix Ounces of another Kind, but one Ounce of excrementitious Parts, the latter will fully counter-ballance the former, and I am certain, if ſhe had had the ſame Quantity a Day of any one Kind of Meat, as ſhe had of Bread, there would have been ſmall hopes of her Life.

When all the above is conſider'd, I doubt not but many of my Readers will ſay with me, it is not only within the Bounds of Poſſibility, but Probability and Reaſon, that ſhe could ſubſiſt and endure Life on that

that Quantity of Bread and Water she relates she did.

I now come in the third Place, to assign natural Reasons for her Ability to escape and return home, in which, if I prove that she might have done so, let others determine whether she did, for myself it sufficeth I believe, firmly believe she did.

It is surprising that any Person, who knows what effect the Passions of the Mind can have upon the Body, and what surprising Strength is frequently the Consequence of Anger, Terror, or Despair, can doubt the Truth of this. Are there not Instances of Things done, even when Nature might have been thought exhausted, by making as it were one great Effort, and collecting all the dissipating Spirits to give sufficient Strength for one strong Conflict; and here may be given a good Reason why she escaped then, and why she attempted it not before. What Mr. *Fielding* says on that Head, that we very often overlook the Means of Safety, which when found appear very slight, and we may wonder that it could be overlook'd, is very true, and highly agreeable both to Reason and Experience; but

but to that may be added this: Fear is a Paſſion which, till it riſes to Deſpair, renders the Body cold, jellies the Blood, and numbs the vital Faculties. While the Mind is oppreſs'd with that Paſſion, the leaſt Threat, the ſmalleſt Menace, is of ſurpriſing Force. It muſt be granted alſo that ſuppoſing a Girl robb'd, knock'd down, carried off, uſed with Threats, and confin'd, ſhe muſt, except ſhe had a greater maſtery of Mind than could be ſuppoſed to fall to her Share, be ſunk in Fear. As that Paſſion muſt be predominant, is it contrary to Reaſon, to think the laſt Word, and that Word one of Terror, would not make a vaſt Impreſſion upon an already terrified Mind. Certainly then, where is the Difficulty to account for her not endeavouring her Eſcape while that Fear poſſeſſed her Mind, it is to no Purpoſe to ſay that her Priſon was not of ſufficient Force to hold her, had ſhe been determined to try a Paſſage out, for place but a Man (much leſs a weak Girl) in a Room from whence twenty Outlets may be made, and at his being thruſt there, terrify him with Threats of Murder and Death, ſhould he attempt to paſs any of thoſe Outlets, the Fear of Death would ſo poſſeſs his Mind, the Ways would be

open in vain, and he would rather ſit down in Hope of being ſome time relieved by his Impriſoners, than by an Attempt which their Cruelty might render fatal, ſeem to throw away his Life. But though the Paſſion of Fear may laſt a long time, it cannot ever, but muſt ariſe to Extremes, and give Place to Deſpair in the long Run, more eſpecially when all Means of Life is taken away: Hence ariſes a ſufficient Reaſon why ſhe then uſed her Endeavour for Life. That Fear of Death is implanted in us for very ſtrong Purpoſes; and it is no Paradox to ſay in this Caſe the Fear of Death prevailed over the Fear of Death: that is, when all the ſlender Support of Life was at an End, her Continuance there muſt be her Death, this raiſed her Fear to Deſpair, and ſhe, who while any ſmall Subſiſtance remain'd, ſat fearfully inactive, when that was gone grown deſperate, attempted and compleated her Eſcape. When Death muſt be her Portion in the abiding there, it is rational to think, ſhe would riſque that Death in eſcaping, which ſhe was morally certain muſt attend her there. What then more likely that her Eſcape ſhould follow the total Conſumption of her Food? Let not therefore it be ſaid, ſhe proportioned her Bread to her Stay; ſhe did not, it ended

the

the *Friday*, on the *Sunday* the Pye was her Food, and Nature now grown more faint grew more desperate: Fear kept in no Bounds, she made one Effort, it succeeded. When she was out, as great Passions are never long at their Extremities, her Despair subsided, and its Parent *Fear* returned; that *Fear* added Wings to her flight, and supported her under its fatgues, that *Fear* hindered her going into any House upon the Road, lest her Persecutors might be there; that *Fear* made her enquire her Way of Persons, least she should go wrong, (which Persons have taken their Oaths they met her) and that *Fear* keeping her Spirits in the ferment Despair had raised, was the Reason of her Strength. But mark the necessary Effects; when she arrived in Safety, that Ferment having wrought up her Strength to its highest Pitch, a Calm succeeded, and over-wearied Nature sunk to a Weakness which continued long.

That Excess of *Fear* should render Persons inactive, we have a very glaring Instance in the Emperor *Theophilus*, who, in a Battle against the *Agerans*, was so stupefied with *Fear*, that he had no Power to fly, till *Manuel*, one of his Officers, was forced to pull and shake him out of his

Trance, saying, "If you will not follow me, I'll kill you, for it is better you should lose your Life, than by being taken lose your Empire."

Donatus gives us an Account of a noble *Spaniard*, named *Diego*, who admiring the Beauty of one of the Queen's Attendants made an Assignation to confer with her in the Royal Gardens by Night, (a Place where it was Death for a Man to enter. As they were discoursing under a Tree the Yelping of a little Dog discovered them: *Diego* was seized and condemned to die. When he heard the Sentence pronounced against him, it so terrified him, that the same Night, though he was under twenty Years of Age, his Hair was turned as Grey as if he had been Sixty; so great an Effect the *Fear* of Death had upon his Spirits. King *Ferdinand* hearing this pardoned him, saying, he suffered enough for that Fault, since from a young Man he was become an old one.

That *Fear* turning to Despair should, for Life, brave Death, hath been seen in several Armies, where a Retreat being cut off, render'd the Men desperate, and thereby gained them not only Life but Victory. In the first Battle the *Romans* fought

fought againſt *Hannibal*, under the Conſul *Sempronius*, a Body of twenty thouſand Foot that had through *Fear* taken flight, ſeeing no other Way for Eſcape, threw themſelves headlong on the great Battalion of the Enemy, which with deſperate Force and Fury they charged through and through, and routed with a very great Slaughter.

I therefore think, from Reaſon and Experience, that *Elizabeth Canning* might make her Eſcape, and by the Agitation of her Mind, rouſe ſufficient Strength for her return home.

I am now to conſider the Effects ſuch Faſting is ſaid to have upon this Girl, and enquire whether they could be the Effects of any other Cauſe.

The ſenſible Effects were Weakneſs, Faintneſs of Voice, low Pulſe, Cold Sweats, great Conſumption of Body, a livid Blackneſs of the Skin, the Belly ſwell'd, the Head heavy, an obſtinate Coſtiveneſs, and a want of other Evacuations, nor did ſhe naturally return to Health, but only by the proper Methods uſed by the Gentlemen who had the Care of her.

Now

Now if these Symptoms are proved to be the Effects of want of Food, and though some might, yet all could not concur, in any other Case possible to have happened to her, then as (whatever is said to the contrary) it is certain she had such Symptoms, then she deserves Credit, and one Leg is fix'd for her Case to stand upon.

The eighty-sixth Aphorism of the third Section of *Sanctorius* is as follows:

By obstinate Fasting, the Head will be fill'd, the Temples heated, the Hypochondres (i. e. the Sides of the Belly) *distended, and the Legs and Arms enervated.*

The Explanation of this Aphorism by Dr. *Quincy*, I shall here transcribe, after divesting it of technical or difficult Terms, or explaining them.

It is necessary to premise, that in the Body there are two chief Springs, or principal Instruments of Motion, *viz.* the *Dura Mater* (that is the outer Membrane which encompasseth the Brain), and the *Heart*, they both agree in this, that by alternate

alternate Dilatations and Contractions, they take in and throw out again certain Liquids, which by the Veſſels or Pipes annexed to them, are conveyed to all Parts of the Body. One of theſe Fluids is the Blood, and belongs to the Office of the Heart and its Pipes, *the Arteries and Veins*. The other is the nervous Juice, or what is commonly called the Animal Spirits, which has its Motions and the Continuance of it into all the Parts from the alternate Pulſations of the *Dura Mater*, and the Tonick Motion of the Body of Nerves.

Now the Motions of theſe two chief Springs of the Machine have a mutual Dependance and Influence upon each other. The Motion of the Heat depends upon a due flowing in of the nervous Juice, or animal Spirits, ſeparated from the Blood in the Brain, and brought to the Heart by the contractile Force of the *Dura Mater*, and through its annexed Nerves; for without this, and a continual Supply of it, all the Muſcles of the Body loſe their ſpringyneſs and grow incapable of Motion.

And as the Motion of the Heart thus depends upon a due Influx from the Brain,

ſo

ſo that of the Outer Membrane of the Brain depends upon a due Circulation of the Blood through the Brain; becauſe from *it* is ſeparated and derived that Juice or animal Spirit, upon which both its own, and the Motions of all the Solids depend. So that which ſoever of theſe Parts is impaired, and thereby the Motion of the reſpective Fluids diſturb'd, the other of Neceſſity muſt alſo ſuffer thereby.*

Thus far being once ſettled, it will then eaſily appear that by long Faſting, firſt the Blood will be leſſened in Quantity, next the Secretions made from it leſſen'd, and laſtly the Solids will loſe their Springs and Powers of Motion. But whereas the contractile Force of the Solids may continue by the Help of their preſent Stock of Spirits, ſometime after the Blood becomes defrauded of its Supply, the ſwift Motion of the Blood will be encreaſed, as long as that Stock remains; for leſſening the Reſiſtance of a moving Body is the ſame as adding to its motive Powers, upon which account the Blood will be thrown more forcibly into the extreme Parts, of which the Head will for a while have its Share. Now this encreaſe of

Swift-

* Vide Baglivi de Fibri motrice & morboſa.

Swiftneſs in the Blood's Motion will, while it continues, quicken and raiſe the Pulſe univerſally throughout the Arteries; but as in ſome Parts, more than others, there is greater Room for their Expanſion, which makes what we call the Pulſe, ſo in the Arteries of the Temples, they being more ſtreightened by the ſurrounding Parts, there will be a greater Senſe of that Pulſation than any where elſe, as it occaſions a greater Uneaſineſs and as the Stroke is chiefly to be felt externally, upon applying the Fingers to the Artery; but it not being poſſible for this additional Increaſe of the Blood's Motion to continue long after the Supply of the nervous Fluid, and the Strength of the Solids is cut off as ſoon as the preſent Stock decays; the whole Conſtitution muſt ſuffer, and not only a greater Senſe of Weight will be felt in the Head but all over, and for the ſame Reaſon are the Limbs enervated and loſe their Strength.

The Diſtention of the Parts about the Belly is occaſion'd by the Diverſion of a great deal of the perſpirable Matter, that would otherwiſe have paſſed the outer Skin by the Way of the Bowels; for that Emptineſs and Defection of Spirits firſt

from within, very much takes off the *Force from behind* *, by which thoſe Steams were uſually propell'd towards the Circumference, and gives thereby greater Liberty for them to collect themſelves within, by which the Sides of the Belly are neceſſarily diſtended in an unuſual Manner: Hence may farther be obſerved the Reaſon why a great Diſtance between the Times of eating is bad, eſpecially between Supper and Breakfaſt, and that for ſuch who are troubled, as they call it, with Wind, it is much better to eat little and often, than large Meals, and ſeldom.

It can be no Wonder why Perſons may die with Want of Food, although well ſtock'd with Blood, to thoſe who are not at all acquainted with the Waſte that is continually made by the Actions and Attritions of the ſeveral Parts of the Body; and that the Circulation of the Blood itſelf depends upon the contractile Force of the Heart and its Veſſels; and that ſuch Contractions are owing to the Springineſs of their conſtituent Fibres, which Springineſs is alſo preſerved and maintain'd by the continual Supply of a convenient Juice from the Brain; and therefore, as beforeſaid, when ſuch a Supply happens to be cut

* Vis a tergo.

cut off, as it muſt needs be by the Want of Food, the contracting Force of the Arteries neceſſarily abates, and conſequently the Blood ſtagnates in them, which is Death.

This accounts for ſome of her Symptoms, namely, the Weakneſs of her Limbs, the Weakneſs of her Pulſe, Cold Sweats, and Swelling.

Her waſting may by any Perſon be ſuppoſed the Conſequence of faſting; and the Blackneſs of her Skin could be only the Effect of the natural Heat retiring inwards, and leaving the Circumference cold, at the Approach of Death. Her Coſtiveneſs was the neceſſary Effect of her Diet, and conſidering the Quantity and Quality of her food, it can hardly be ſuppoſed much Excrement could be formed. It may be aſk'd why, ſuppoſing ſhe went into that Place with a full Belly, no Excrement was found from the Aliment at that Time in her Body? To this I anſwer, that ſhe was naturally coſtive, and her fears made her more ſo by its known Effect of Conſtipation; therefore before her uſual Time of Egeſtion came, her Stomach began to be weaken'd, and the

Tone of its fibres being hurt, the expulsive faculty must be vitiated; and that when the expulsive Faculty of the Intestine is totally or even partially destroyed from the Weakness of the Fibre, that the Excrement may remain therein, and be even indurated, is agreeable to Reason and to Fact.

Fernelius relates, that an Embassador of King *Charles* the Fifth was discomposed in his Bowels for six Years, but by proper Clysters voided an hard concreted Substance of Excrement twelve Inches long, and resembling the Shape of the Intestine.

I believe it will not be denied but that some are very costive by Nature; I have known Persons who for some Years scarce ever went to Stool above once in eight Days; and we have a very remarkable Instance mention'd in the Philosophical Transactions, of a Man named *Phelips*, who for many Years never voided any Excrement above once in nineteen or twenty Days.

It was asked upon the Trial, whether one that is extreamly costive, cannot subsist longer without Food, or with less

Food,

Food, than a Perſon who is not ſo? The Anſwer to that Queſtion is this: According to the Perſpiration of the Perſon, the Coſtiveneſs will have the greater or leſſer Effect upon the Appetite, or the Supply that Perſon wants; certain it is, if the Party be in a lax State there will be a greater Call for a Recruit. It hath been maliciouſly urged, that the Symptoms found upon that Girl are the Effects of a Salivation; but I beg the Favourers of that Report to conſider, that although a Waſte of Fleſh, a Coſtiveneſs, cold Sweats, and a weak, low Pulſe, might be the Effects of a Salivation, yet it would be the higheſt Abſurdity to ſuppoſe a Salivation could leave a Blackneſs of the Skin behind it; for the contrary is well known, as daily Obſervation will ſhew; and if a livid black Colour of the Skin ſhould be the Conſequence of a Salivation, thoſe Gentlemen would be ſadly diſappointed who flux for a Complexion; but of this I have ſaid enough. And I ſhall only add upon this Head, that I know no Cauſe to which to attribute a Blackneſs of the Skin, or even black Spots, but Blows, the Plague, a Petechial Fever, Scurvy, or Starving. Now as it is plain neither of the former could be the Cauſe in her, it is a preſumptive

ſumptive Proof that it was the latter Cauſe alone to which the diſcolouring of her Skin can be attributed. Upon the whole I think it is probable that ſhe might have been carried off, and it is probable ſhe might be kept from Death by ſo little Food; it is probable ſhe might have had Strength left ſufficient for her Eſcape, and the Symptoms which appeared upon her are probable to have happened from the Cauſe ſhe aſcribes them to. Then ſince it is poſſible and probable that a Perſon might have ſuffer'd what ſhe ſaid ſhe did ſuffer, and if other Things may be urged in her favour, let not the Strangeneſs of her Story be a Hindrance to the belief of it.

On the other Hand, ſhould it be proved that ſhe is guilty of forging this not *contemptible Story* with all its Circumſtances, that ſhe ſhould fix upon innocent Perſons to fall Victims to either her idle Excuſe or premeditated Contrivance; if, I ſay, this ſhould be proved, which I muſt own I think, and firmly believe, impoſſible, yet thoſe who through a Love of Juſtice or a tender Compaſſion have aſſiſted in the Proſecution, or engaged in her behalf: Thoſe, I ſay, can reaſonably be liable

to

to no Cenſure; at the worſt they are miſguided Men, and if they are ſo, I own I think myſelf in their Number: Though I think ſhould her Antagoniſts prevail, it cannot be ſaid I have been proving what was not. I have only aſſerted that Human Nature, in ſuch Circumſtances as is ſaid ſhe was, could endure what ſhe is ſaid to endure and live, which I again ſay, and will beg leave to inſert a few Remarks in order to her further Defence.

Therefore, I muſt here remark, that though it is ſaid ſhe fix'd on the Houſe of Mother *Wells*, becauſe ſhe knew it bore an infamous Character; yet ſhe abſolutely did not fix upon that Houſe, but only ſaid one upon the *Hertford* Road: beſides, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that if ſhe had only deſigned an Excuſe for her Abſence when ſhe was carried to that Houſe, ſhe would have denied that as ſhe did others to be the Houſe ſhe was detain'd in, that after a Return, without fixing upon any, the Excuſe might have been ſtill the ſame, and ſhe might have been thought ſtill an injured Girl, who unhappily could not have fix'd upon the Houſe in which ſhe was miſuſed; then it would have ended without more Stir, and ariſing to what it

hath

hath ariſen. I will alſo remark, that ſhe could not feign this Tale to raiſe Money, for there was no Thought of that till it had ſpread all over the Town; nor do I find any body can ſuppoſe ſhe accuſed the Gipſey out of private Pique and Revenge.

That ſhe came home in the Condition mentioned, is a well known Fact; that ſuch a Condition could not ariſe from what hath been ſaid, is a Fact; that ſhe ſhould be voluntarily confined and ill uſed by any Body is improbable in the higheſt Degree, and that ſhe ſhould ſcreen any body who could uſe her ill, is as improbable. That ſhe was ſo ſoon recovered as is mentioned and reported, is a Falſity; that ſhe ſhould be quite void of Fear of the Conſequences of her Perjury, if ſhe were guilty of any, is almoſt improbable, and I declare I never ſaw any thing in her Countenance, Words, or Actions, that could indicate any ſuch fear; ſo that if ſo, ſhe muſt be an abſolute Miſtreſs of Diſſimulation.

I ſhall juſt mention one Inſtance of her Simplicity, that is, ſhe ſays all the Time ſhe was there, although there was Hay in the Room, ſhe never lay upon it to ſleep:

ſleep: This hath been alſo made a Piece of Improbability; but her Reaſon is this, ſhe was terrified with a Thought which ſhe could not put out of her Head, that a dead Man was hid under that Hay; and that ſhe declares was the Cauſe, why ſhe never ſlept upon it: A very childiſh Reaſon, and not at all befitting her ſuppoſed Cunning.

Among other Things I muſt here take a little Notice of one mighty Article brought againſt her, that of the Advertiſement publiſh'd by her Mother, in which it was ſaid, ſhe was heard to cry out in a Coach: I muſt inform the Public this was not the *firſt* Advertiſement publiſhed concerning her, there was one prior to that without the Circumſtance of the Coach, and with a leſſer Reward: after which a Perſon inform'd her Mother, that ſhe heard a Perſon cry out in a Coach in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, this Perſon parental Fear and Love conſtrued to be her Daughter, not with any Certainty; and therefore the weak, ignorant old Woman, who could not write herſelf, gave it as an Inſtruction to the Perſon who

drew up the latter Advertiſement, that he ſhould inſert the Article of the Coach; from this Piece of Weakneſs aroſe that which hath been uſher'd forth to the World as a Piece of hidden Fact, and ſo much Streſs laid upon the Doating of a fond Mother.

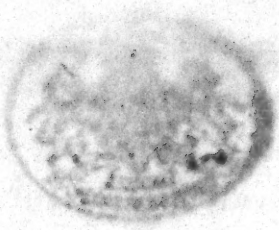
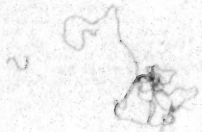
It has been aſſerted that all the Anſwers of *Elizabeth Canning* were but bare Aſſents to what was aſked her, and none ariſing from herſelf. She was aſked if ſuch and ſuch a Thing was not true, and ſhe thereby being inform'd, anſwer'd Yes. I have very little Reaſon to believe this Aſſertion, and the leſs ſo, as all ſhe anſwered relating to her State of Body, which ſhe made me, were intermix'd with Negatives to many enſnaring Queſtions, which I aſked her, on purpoſe to find out if ſhe was any Ways influenc'd, by either the Queſtions themſelves, or the Manner in which they were propoſed. I am ſure, with all the Seriouſneſs I was able, I ſaid to her, that ſhe muſt certainly be affected by her Faſting in divers Manners, which I was certain could be cauſed by Faſting, and with the greateſt Simplicity of Truth I was

anſwered

anſwered No, to as many ſuch as I demanded, inſomuch that I am morally certain that ſhe ſpoke the very Truth, or that ſhe framed her Anſwers from a thorough Knowledge of the various Symptoms of not only Famine, but of many other Diſeaſes, the Signs of which were the Subjects of my Interrogations; and I believe the laſt Suppoſition can be but a vaſt Improbability.

To conclude, it is my ſincere Wiſh (and I believe therein the Conductors of the Proſecutions join with me) that the Truth may be made manifeſt to the World; and ſhould ſhe be proved guilty of endeavouring to take away the Life of a wretched old Woman, may ſhe ſuffer the utmoſt Severity our mild Laws can inflict.

But if, on the other Hand, by the Number of ſtrong Proofs which are now this Day in Poſſeſſion, and the higheſt Probabilities of the Facts ſhe relates being true, by the many corroborating Circumſtances come to Light, and which will ſoon be made Public to the World: If, I ſay, by theſe her Innocence is made clear,

clear, let us thank God for the Discovery, and thinking for ourselves, not be blinded by Pique or Prejudice, nor be overborne by any Inundation of Scandal and Abuse.

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